his [illegible].

Question.

What more is too bee learned hereby?

Aunswere.

That wee beeyng many, are made one in Christ, as of many graines is made one lofe, and of many Grapes, one Wine.

Question.

Forasmuche as the vnworthie receiuer is damned (for so Sainct Paule testifieth) how wilt thou knowe, whether thou art a worthie receiuer, or no?

Aunswere.

If I examine mee self, and finde, that I humblie acknowledge myne owne vnworthinesse, that is to saie, my synnes, and to be hartely sorie for them, and fullie too purpose amendement of life, and faithfully to embrace Gods promise of remission and pardon offered in Christ, then am I woorthy because my vnwoorthinesse is forgiuen mee, and put out of remembraunce.

Seen and allowed.

¶ Imprinted at London for H. Kirkham, dwellyng by the little Northe doore of Paules churche, at the signe of the Blacke Boye.

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A DISCOVRSE

OF THE medicine called *Mithridatium*, declaring the firſte begiñinge, the temperament, the noble vertues, and the true vſe of the ſame:

Compiled ra-
ther for thoſe which are to vſe it, then for the learned.

1585.

43:16

¶ A BRIEFE DISCOVRSE OF THE MEDICINE called Mithridatium.

WEe doe read in ẏ Romaine hiſtories, that Mithridates a puiſsaunte king of Pontus & Bithinia, for cauſing all ẏ Romaines in Aſia to bee ſlaine, and the Proconſul Oppius to bee caſt in priſon, was aſſaulted by Silla, diſcomfited by Lucullus, and laſtly vtterly vanquiſhed by Pompey the great: and when this valiaunte king perceiued himſelfe to be ouercome, and that he was to be taken of his enemies: firſt he deſtroyde his wyfe & daughters with poyſon, and then tooke the ſame poyſon, deſiring rather ſo to dye, then as a captiue to fal into ẏ hands of his enemyes: But hauing dronken much of the poyſon, could not dye therewith, and then cauſed his ſeruant Biſtocus a frenchman (as it is written) to kill him with a ſword. Such was the magnanimity of this mighty king to eſcape the hands of the Romaines, ẏ he might not bee caried to Rome,

and in captiue maner be shewed in triumph. For this noble king was not only valiante in warre, but also in phisicall matters very expert, had the knowledg of many hearbes, and making tryall of sundry simples that doe resist poyson in men condemned to dye, as Galen writeth in his first booke *de Antidotis*, and finding some to remedy ỹ poyson of Spiders, some of Scorpions, some to doe good against the byting of Vipers, others of mad Dogs, many to remedy the poison of hearbes, and so sundry others to help the venime of sundry poisons: he endeuoured to make a mixture of diuerse simples, hoping thereby to haue a ready remedy against all kindes of poison, & the same was termed after his name Mithridatium: wherein he was nothing deceiued. For this noble king in his life time vsed much and often ỹ medicine. And (as it is written) being subdued by the Romaines, and making choise rather to dye then to be led captiue to Rome, attempting to kill him selfe with poison, and taking of it great quantity, tooke no harme thereof, for that his body (as ỹ history saith) by vse of ỹ medicine altered, & resisted the action of the poison. Notwithstanding his wife and two daughters dyed before his face with the same poison. Since that

time

time, the efficacy and strength of ꝑ medicine, hath in all ages (euen vnto these our dayes) bene confirmed. For after that Pompey the great had cõquered this valiante king, search made in his Closets, amongst sundry Iuels, many secret medicines to expell diuerse poisons, and to cure other internall diseases, were founde: where also was the description of this medicine. And albeit Pompey, as a martiall man, had greatest care of other matters, yet aduertised what goodnes might come by such secret medicines, commaunded one Pompeius Lineus his libertine, well seene in sciences, to conuert all those medicines written in the Pontike tongue, into latine. And it doth appeare by the history, that many volumes of phisicall maters were there founde, which perused and considered of by Asclepiades, in those dayes a famous phisition in Rome, were by him commended, and at his petition translated into latine, whereof Pliny writeth in his 25. booke. Of so many excellent medicines left by Mithridates, none was so highly esteemed, & so well accompted of in all respectes, as that termed Mithridatium: whose excellent vertues against poison were first approued in Mithridates owne body, and after confirmed by ꝑ Romaines.

In

In trueth a man may iustly blame the historyographers, which in describing the noble actes of Pompey the great, doe so slenderly passe ouer this his facte, in translating of this medicine experienced of this noble king. For in my iudgemēt things iustly weighed, none of all Pompeyes valiante feates of armes, no not the royall triumph made at Rome to declare the victory in cōquering king Mithridates, hath so largely aduaunced his name, as the making knowen to the world of this medicine. For the profit of ẏ victory came only to Rome, and the triumph and praise for ẏ same done at ẏ time in Rome: But the profit of this medicine hath bene by his meanes imparted to ẏ whole world, & the cōmendation and praise for the same, is iustly to be yeelded from all the world in all ages and times: So that as all the world is greater then Rome, & all times more then one age, so doubtlesse more renowme is due vnto Pompey for diuulging of this medicine, then by the conquering of this king, or by the triumph for the same. Although in the Emperoure Nero his time, succeeded a learned phisition called Andromachus, who to the imitation of this medicine compounded an other, adding to the description of Mithridatium the flesh of Vipers

pers, and some other simples, which medicine he called Theriaca, of the Greeke worde θηριον, which doth signifie a wilde and venemous beast, whereof the Viper is one. Yet this ought not to imbase any praise due to Mithridates for compounding of Mithridatium. For all men doe know that it is easier to adde to a thing done, then to finde out the same, and greatest praise is to be geuen to the first inuentor. So that the dishonour þ came to Mithridates by Pompey his victory was not so great, as the praise and commendation for the inuenting and compounding of Mithridatium. And his calamity to be ouerthrowen is greatly easied, his ignomy to be cõquered after a sorte aduaunced, that by the same this medicine was diuulged, which happely would not haue bene performed, at þ least so generally, had he dyed otherwayes, and not bene by Pompey ouercommed. For had not Mithridates in him selfe approoued the excellency of the medicine, purposing to haue killed him selfe rather then to come into the handes of the Romaines, surely the notable vertues of the medicine would not so well haue bene believed. And had not this king in that his miserable estate made triall in his owne body, who would haue believed

that

that a mans body might by any meanes be brought so strongly to resist poison: Who but one in so desperate a case, would attempt to take strong poison vpon the credit of any medicine? Great good therefore to the whole world this ouerthrowe of Mithridates did breede: And great renoume thereby came, not to the conqueroure onely, but to the conquered: to the one for inuenting, to the other for diuulging of so great a medicine, which for these two thousand yeares hath bene of all men in all ages had in great estimation, not in Pontus onely & Bithinia, & Greece adioyning to the same, but in all other nations and countryes where any learning is, commended by all writers, Grecians, Arabians, and Latinists. And what greater assurance can there be of the notable vertues of this medicine, then the confirmation of the same from Mithridates to this our time, then that all phisitions of the world in all ages, tunes, and places, in Greece, in Arabia, in Italia, in all partes of Germany, in France, in Spayn, in Portingal, in Hungaria, in England, in Scotland, Moscouia, Tartaria, Sueuia, yee in all partes of Asia, Aphrica, and Europa, euen amongest the saluage and barbarous nations, hath and doth greatly esteeme of Mithri-

thridatium, and so of Theriacle, and seeke and prouide for them to serue their countryes in cases of neede. How carefully all princes & rulers, hath & doth take order for the well cõpounding of these medicines. Doubtles had not experience confirmed their excellent qualyties, the estimation would not haue so many yeares continued: but longe before this our age, would haue bene diminished, and by this time come to nothing. Great therefore are these medicines, and in a heigh degree to be esteemed. And albeit great prayse and cõmendation is due to both medicines (I meane Mithridatium and Theriacle) yet greatest praise is to be geuen to Mithridatium. First because of his antiquytie, which was of Mithridates inuented, & approued many yeares before Theriacle was compounded. For long after Mithridates was ouerthrowen, Andromachus phisition to Nero ỹ Emperour, & very expert in cõfecting of medicines) as Galen writeth in his first booke *de Amid.*) with diligence considering the composition of Mithridatium, chaunged some of the simples, toke out some, and added others, supposinge by that alteration to make the medicine more perfite, & of mightyer force against poison. In which consideration he added the flesh of vi-

pers

pers to the composition of Mithridatium, and leauing out some simples vsed of Mithridates, added others, in number moe, and (as he thought) of greater power against poyson. Whereby it may reasonably bee gathered, ỳ Andromachus not fully satisfied with the cõposition set downe by Mithridates, supposing some defect in it, by that his alteration, endeuoured to make an other medicine in all degrees more perfite, in which no want might be found, and so he addressed the same, and called it Theriaca. Whereby no doubt some good time after, Mithridatium was lesse esteemed, and the credit thereof much imbased, vntill time by longe experience had sufficiently declared, wherein Theriacle doth excell Mithridatium, and in what poynts Mithridatiũ is not onely not inferiour to Theriacle, but of more efficacy then it.

So Galen in his first booke *de Antidot.* writeth. *Because of the flesh of Vipers in* Theriacle, *it is much better in the byting of the Viper then* Mithridatium: *But in all other effects,* Theriacle *can not onely not doe more then* Mithridatium, *but is inferiour.* The same Galen in 2. *de Antidot.* writeth in like sorte. *We will begin* (saith he) *with the description of* Mithridatium, *for it is stronger against many poi-*

sons

ſons then Theriacle, *though this be better a-gainſt the byting of the Viper.* Whereby we may gather ẏ where Andromachus endeuouring to make a more perfit medicine, then ẏ leſte of Mithridates, did in ſome part accompliſh his purpoſe, leauing a medicine excelling the other in one particular thing, but not of like efficacy generally. It happened therefore in this caſe (if a man may compare natures actions to arte) as in ẏ framing of mã, who doth in all actions exceede all creatures, yet not ſo generally, but ẏ in ſome one action ſome one beaſt doth excel man, as we reade ẏ the Ægle hath perfiter ſighte then man, the Dogge doth paſſe man in ſmelling, the Ape in agility, the Tiger in ſwiftneſſe. But whoſoeuer will with reaſon conferre all actions, he ſhall find in all together, that man paſſeth all creatures, for ſuch is his conſtitution and temperature, that moe and perfiter actions doe proceede from man thẽ any one creature. So it came to paſſe, that Andromachus indeuoring to make a medicine of greater perfection then Mithridatium, obtayned that in one thing his medicine excelled, but in many other was inferiour to Mithridatium. For a man may gather the vertues of theſe two medicines, at large diſplaied in Galens workes,

into

into three orders. First that they are good against the byting and stinging of venemous beastes, be they Serpentes, Scorpions, mad Dogges, or others. Secondly they serue to cure all kinde of poysons taken into the body. Thirdly to remedy other inwarde diseases. Now it is certaine, and long experience hath confirmed, that both these medicines haue strong and mighty vertues to remedy al three kindes of effectes: yet no doubt one of them is in some effectes of more power then the other. As Galen writeth that Theriacle for ꝑ byting of Uipers, is stonger then Mithridatium: In other it doth exceede Theriacle. So we may iustly conclude with Galen, that against the byting & stinging of beastes, Theriacle hath more force: But for inward poisons & inward diseases, truly Mithridatium is of more might. Wherefore albeit both medicines are noble, & greatly to be desired, yet Mithridatium is to be accompted of greater price, as hauing more generally stronger vertues, and seruing to moe purposes.

And it may be obiected, that in Theriacle cõpiled by Andromachus are many simples added, which haue great vertue against diuerse kindes of poysons, and happely are therein of more efficacy, then those in Mithridatium,

left

left out by Andromachus in his Theriacle. Whereby it may be conjectured, that Andromachus making choyse of the simples, selected such as were of greatest force to remedy poisons, & omitted the weaker, adding in their place, some other of more strēgth: so it is probable, ỳ Theriacle so compiled, is of greater myght in all kinde of poysons. But Galen in his workes declareth, that experience in his time did shewe the contrary, and reason confirmeth the same. For let the simples in Theriacle be in number moe, and in qualytie of greater efficacy, yet it must be remembred, that it is certayn, that when in compositions some one simple is set as the base and ground of that medicine, that that simple doth drawe the force and strength of all ỳ rest to his property and action, and so euery such compound is specially good in that one thinge for which it was deuised. Now when Andromachus did make the flesh of vipers as the base and grounde of his Theriacle, it foloweth that the same doth drawe to it the qualities and vertues of all the simples in Theriacle: so it doth come to passe, that Theriacle is far better thē Mithridatium, against the bytinge of vipers and such venemous beaste. And for that all other simples in it, are caried by the flesh of the

vipers

vipers, to exercyse their force strongly therin, they haue the lesse power to remedy other poysons. When no such thinge was intended in the composition of Mithridatium, it is agreable to reason that the simples in it euery one retayneth his owne power and property, and so one such quality or forme doth resulte by the myxture, of great strength against all poysons. Moreouer it is certayne that in the composition of Mithridatium, are fewer simples in number then are in the confection of Theriacle, then it followeth that when like quantity of both is taken, as for example, ʒ j, surely a greater portiõ of euery one simple is taken in Mithridatium, and lesser in Theriacle, the lesser quantity must needes haue lesser strength in remedyinge other poysons, saue that, to the which the base or grounde doth call them. So it remayneth fyrme that Galen writeth, as obserued in his time, that Theriacle is in deede better then Mithridatium in bytinge of vypers and like beastes, and that Mithridatium exceadeth th'other in remedying all other poisons taken into the body and inward diseases. Wherefore in this our countrey where no such perill and danger is of vipers, Mithridatium by good reason ought to be reputed of greater estimation then Theriacle. *Of the*

Of the composition of Mithridatium.

IT shall not be amisse in this place, to declare the composition of this medicine. And it is to be noted, that where all writers doe greately cõmend it, yet certayne it is, that they do not in one sorte describe the makinge of the same. But almost euery author hath a seuerall description, differinge in the number of the simples, and also in ỳ proportions and quantities. In time past ỳ Apothecaries in making of Mithridatium, followed most the description of Nicolaus Prepositus, of Auicenna, and of Nicolaus Mirepsicus, some of Ætius, some of Paulus. The former descriptions contayninge aboue one hundred simples, were long and laborious, and required many supplyes, for simples vnknowen. Wherefore in these our later daies, in which learned men haue examined euery thing perfitly, the most part haue commended one of ỳ three compositions expressed by Galen in 2. de *Antid.* of the which, two were taken (as Galen writeth) out of the bookes of Andromachus. The first found without name is attributed

buted to Andromachus, as compounded by him, of others supposed the very same, which was found in the closets of kinge Mithridates, & after transcribed in the workes of Andromachus. The second description is also recyted out of Andromachus bookes, under the names of Antipater and Cleophantes. The third is referred to Damocrates: It doth not appeare by any thing written by Galen, which of these three compositions is best to be folowed. And so of ꝑ learned men of our time, some hath used the one, and some the other. Many doe best like of the first description attributed to Andromachus, both for that Andromachus by the opinion of Galen and of all other auncient writers, was adiudged very skilfull in cõpounding of medicines, & therein did farre excell all phisitions of his time, and also because it may bee iustly gathered, that that description is the very same, which Mithridates used. For in ꝑ Andromachus was phisition to Nero the Emperour of Rome, it appeareth that he obtayned to see and to consider, of all the bookes which found in Mithridates closet, were translated into latine by Lineus the grammarian, and brought to Rome. And it is not agreable to reason, that Andromachus studying to make

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a more perfit medicine then that which came vnder the name of Mithridatium, would also inuent an other vnder the same name. But it is very probable that Andromachus with diligence perusinge the recept of Mithridatium, vsed of Mithridates, would leaue it in such forme as Mithridates compouded it, and deuise an other by the same, which he meant to make more perfite. Andromachus therefore not alteringe the description of Mithridatium, but leauing it in the same forme as it was founde, confected an other, which he called Theriaca. And where we doe reade in ꝑ 2. de Antid. of Galen, an other recept set downe vnder the name of Theriaca Mithridatis, with assertion that the kinge vsed the same: yet it seemeth not to be ꝑ Mithridatium which was found in the closet of that king. For all writers doe confesse, that Andromachus long after added to that recept of Mithridates, the flesh of vipers: so that Mithridatium compounded by Mithridates had not in it the flesh of vipers, and that Theriacle which Galen in that place calleth Theriaca Mithridatis, doth receaue the flesh of vipers, so it followeth that it is not the Mithridatium vsed of Mithridates. And he that will with diligence perule that recept mentioned of Galen,

by the name of Theriaca Mithridatis, shall finde it in ẏ simples not much differing from Theriaca Andromachi, and many things repeated twyse in diuers clauses doth argue an imperfection: that Galen may be thought in ẏ place to speake after ẏ common opinion, whẽ hee affirmeth it to be the same which Mithridates vsed, being in deede farre different from that medicine. Wherefore we may reasonably conclude, that the first recept transcribed by Galen in *2. de Antid.* out of Andromachus workes, is in truth the selfe same that Mithridates vsed, and in mine opinion, in that respect the better to be liked, and the rather to be followed. For what better assurance can we haue of the true and perfect confection of this medicine, then that which was deliuered by Mithridates? and what description can more assure vs of the effects of this medicine, then ẏ composition which Mithridates followed, who first gaue so notable proofe of the medicine, and thereby the first credite to the same? So that if by discourse of reason it may be proued, that an other description is more artificiall and more agreable to the rules of confection of medicines: yet in mine opinion this description, being the same that Mithridates vsed, set downe happely by

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the king, more according to experience then art, is rather to be folowed then any other, thought more cunningly addressed. Neuertheless it is not to be deemed that kinge Mithridates was altogether vnskylfull, when many volumes concerning physike were found in his closet, & translated into latine, brought to Rome. And it appeareth that he taking delight in medicinall matters, had about him dyuerse physitions, who mighte artificially dispence the simples in Mithridatium. And Galen in the sayd booke *de Antid.* commendeth the discription of Mithridatium attributed to Andromachus: whereby it appeareth, that this description of Mithridatium is not addressed altogether without arte. For which cause, þ learned of our time, haue great reason to preferre that description of Mithridatium before others. Albeit some do more esteeme the composition of Damocrates, as with more arte and more cunning dispensed. Notwithstanding because it is very likely þ the precept attributed to Andromachus, as found in his bookes, is the selfe same that Mithridates vsed, and hath of many, in this our countrey, of late yeares bene folowed: I thought best in this place to expresse þ same, as I doe finde it in Galen, in *2. de Antid.* and

in many antidotary bookes allowed, which is as followeth.

Rec. glicirrizæ ʒ vij. ob. iij.
Spicæ nardi ʒ vij. ob. ij.
Croci, cinnamomi, } ana. ʒ vij.
Zinziberis. } ob. j.
Galbani. ʒ vij.
Castorei, costi,
Scordij, iunci odorati, } ana. ʒ vj.
Opoponacis, } ob. j.
Terebinthinæ.
Seminis dauci. ʒ vj. ob. ij.
Opobalsami, } ana. ʒ vj.
Thlaspios. } ob. iij.
Thuris, myrrhæ,
Succi hyppocistidis. } ana. ʒ vj.
Polij, Seselios, } ana. ʒ v.
Cypheos, Casiæ. } ob. j.
Stiracis ʒ v ob. iij.
Petroselini ʒ iij. ob. ij.
Opij. ʒ iij. ob. j.

Nar-

Nardi gallicæ,
Seminis feniculi,
Nardi indicæ,
Gentianæ,
Meiathamantici,
Rosarum siccarum,
Cardamomi, Folij. } ana ʒ. ij.
Anisi, ʒ. iij
Acori, Hiperici,
Gummi Acaciæ,
Phu pontici. } ana ʒ ij.
Scinci, ʒ ij. ob. ij
Vini choi, & mellis Attici despumati,
ana q. s.

BEcause many learned men of this age doe best allowe the description of Mithridatium, deliuered by Damocrates, as more artificially done, in which the rules of compounding of medicines are more exactly followed, and is in truth easier to be made of the Apothecaries, better digested in orders, not hauing so small diuisions in the proportions, as this attributed to Andromachus, and so may better be made of the Apothecary in what quantity shall seeme good to him: therefore

I doe thinke it not amisse in this place to recite that description also of Mithridatium of Damocrates, as the same is expressed in the second booke of Galen *de Antidot.* that such as shall thinke better to follow the same, may by this pamphlet knowe the ingredience, which is this.

Rec. Mirrhæ, croci,
Agarici, Zinziberis,
Cinnamomi, thuris, } *ana.* ʒ. xx
Spicæ, Nardi,
Thlaspios,

Seselis, stechados,
Opobalsami, costi,
Iunci odorati, styracis,
Galbani, terebinthinæ,
Piperis longi, castorei, } *ana.* ʒ. viij
Succi hypocistidis,
Opoponacis,
Folij malabathri recētis,

Cassiæ lignea,
Folij, scordij, Se-
minis dauci, bdellij, } *ana.* ʒ. vj
Piperis albi, cypheos,
Carpobalsami,

Nar-

Nardi celticæ, Gümi, Petroſelini, Opij, Cardamomi, gentianæ, Seminis feniculi, dictãni, Foliorum roſarum,	ana. ʒ. boni ponderis.
Aniſi, aſari, acori, Phu, ſagapeni, Succi glicirrizæ,	ana. ʒ. iij
Mei Athamantici, Acaciæ, Ventris ſcinci, Sem. hiperici,	ana. ʒ. ij
Vini & mellis	q. ſ.

PLiny in his 22. maketh mention of a kinde of Mithridatium made of two dry Walnuts, two Figges, xx. leaues of Rhue, one graine of ſalte: Ætius and other writers doe recite the ſame. And they greatly cõmend it againſt poiſon, & other peſtilentiall diſeaſes.

Of the quality and temperament of Mithridatium.

IT is of all men of our age confessed, and taken for a truth, that medicines compounded haue their vertues, and doe their effectes according to the nature of the simples whereof they are compounded. So it must needes followe, that Mithridatium compounded of many simples, hath diuers & sundry properties, & those agreable to the ingredience. And whereas in Mithridatium are simples differing in quality, some hauing power to heate, some other to coole, yet the greatest number are in quality whot and dry. And albeit these being contrary, and repugnant, do make alteration the one with the other: notwithstanding it must needes follow, that those reactions not being infinite, at the last one forme and quality must result in the compound, agreable to the natures of those simples, which doe beare and carry dominion. Now whereas in Mithridatium ꝑ most simples haue quality to heate and dry: it followeth that Mithridatium hath a whot and drying power. And as compounds must haue a time of fermentation, and ripening (for the reactions of the simples are not perfited in a moment) So the quality of forme which doth arise by the working of

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one simple with an other, hath not his perfection presently after ỳ mixture, but a certayne space of time must be geuē before we can iustly expect the true action of the medicine compounded, as proceeding from the forme of the medicine, which doth resulte by fermentation of the working of the simples in ỳ compound. So that before ỳ due time, we may not loke for the vertues aunswerable to the composition, but that some one simple aboue the rest may shew his quality, that the compound medicine may do an effect aunswerable to that simple, and not as proceeding from the whole cōposition. In which respect, Galen wryteth that Theriacle newly made, doth greately prouoke sleepe, by reason that Opium (that is the ioyce of Poppy prepared) myngled in it, being of greater force then other simples, before fermentation doth exercise his quality more then the rest: and after that his quality is by fermentation with other simples broken, he can not so strongly do his operation. So Theriacle after the iust time of fermentation doth not so mightely prouoke sleepe, as newe Theriacle doth. The same is obserued in Mithridatium, and all other compounds, that immediately after myxture, the qualities of the simples are strongest, and shewe their powers best.

best. But certaine it is, that after due time of working, when the compound is fully rype, no one simple doth worke in it according to his owne nature, but by the reactions one common nature doth result, which cannot be attributed to any one or moe simples, but may be truely sayd a common nature arysinge out of all the ingredience, and from that forme the actions of the compound do proceede. Which forme is to vs not certainely knowen, ẏ effects are best learned by experience. Wherfore it is very wysely wrytten of *Ioannes de sancto Amando* in his exposition vpon the antitonary of Nicolaus, that it is better alwaye to vse a medicine compound exercised, then one lately inuẽted whereof we haue no experience. For although we may by discourse of reason gather that ẏ compound, as Mithridatium, is whot and dry, because ẏ simples wherof it is made, are the most part whot and dry, and then experience doth confirme this coniecture: yet other qualities of Mithridatium and of other compounds are not so easely knowen by any discourse or method, but chiefly learned by experience. For the cõmon forme from whence many secrete vertues doe procede, is not knowen by any learning or methode. So it must needes follow, that the actions of ẏ same forme

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are not learned by methode or doctrine, but chiefly by experience. In which respect also, we haue reason to retaine the description deliuered by Mithridates, before any other, for y that noble king gaue better proofe in himselfe of the vertues of the medicine, then any other hath of it by any other composition.

That Mithridatium *is not so whote as* Theriacle, *compounded after* Andromachus *description, which is in these dayes most followed: and that it may more safely bee vsed.*

ome learned men of our time, by reason go about to discourse, and proue, y Theriacle is not in quãtity so whote as Mithridatium, & in that respect doe inferre, that it may more safely bee vsed. Which they doe gather, for that in Theriacle a greater quantity of Opium (that is the ioyce of Poppy prepared) is, then in Mithridatium, whose cooling power doth much abate the heating qualities of other medicines. This argument in these

two

two medicines newly made, before fermentation is perfite, may take place. For then in deede euery simple retayning his owne vertue, Opium may remitte the whot qualities of the rest: at what time neither of these medicines is generally to be vsed, but for some speciall point, as Galen to prouoke sleepe, doth counsell new Theriacle. But after fermentation is perfited, all the simples one altering the other, euery one hath qualities so broken, that not one retayneth his owne nature: then surely the cõmon forme resulting, doth follow the simples which doe beare dominion, and they in both these medicines are whot and dry, and ꝑ whot and dry simples in Theriacle are moe in number, and of greater force, then in Mithridatium: as may appeare to him that will compare both confections. Whereby it followeth that the common quality arysinge in Theriacle, doth heate more then that in Mithridatium. Neyther the increase of Opium doth in proportion aunswere the strength of heating in it: neither hath it any such force so greately to contemper the simples, as these men doe imagine. For although Opium hath speciall property aboue other medicines to induce sleepe, yet his cooling quality (of many writers) is not accompted so great, for it hath so strong bitter-

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nes: that many doe suppose that it hath a myxt nature, consisting of many whot partes: if it be true that Galen wryteth in his 5. booke of simples, that all bitter thinges are whot, and being certaine ꝑ Opium doth stupefy, & strongly cause sleepe, it is of some inferred ꝑ that power doth rather proceede of a property of substaunce, then altogether depend of his cooling quality. Wherefore it is not without reason affyrmed by learned men wryting hereof, that Mithridatium doth not so strongly heate as Theriacle: and experience doth also confirme the same. For who so vseth these medicines, doubtles he shall finde that Theriacle rightly compounded after Andromachus description (which is in all this treatise to be vnderstood, and is in these dayes of the Apothecaries most commonly made, and so of the wyser sort in most vulgare vse) doth heate more then Mithridatium, which is confessed of the wryters, commenting vpon the antidotary of Nicolaus, and in this our age of many learned men affyrmed. For which cause, many in these dayes without daunger do vse Mithridatium when neede requireth. In cõmen time, & whot seasons, very few and seldome Theriacle. And Galen doth expressly forbyd to giue Theriacle to children. More safe therefore is the vse of

Mithri-

Mithridatium then of Theriacle, not onely in respect of the heating quality, which seemeth lesse, & more gentle in Mithridatium: but also in respect that a greater quantity of Opiū is in Theriacle. For admit that Opium by fermentation sustayneth great alteration, notwithstāding ꝑ common forme of Theriacle taketh some infection of Opium, ꝑ some effecte declining to his nature, doth also proceede, and the more, if that stupefying and dormitory power in Opium, doth depend rather of property of substance, thē of manifest cooling quality, as some do argue. For the properties of substance in medicines, haue not like alteration by fermentation, as the manifest qualities haue by reaction: we may therefore feare the common and often vse of Theriacle for ꝑ quantity of Opium in it. For like reason, often vse of Theriacle may be suspected, because of the flesh of vipers added to it, as the base & groūd of the medicine. For notwithstanding ꝑ great care of the place, of the time, of the kinde obserued in taking and choosing of the viper, the diligence in preparing, the care of myxture with other things, for the better correction of the malignity of ꝑ beast, which hapely might remaine in the flesh: yet a man may doubt of some errour cōmitted in so dangerous a case.

And

And though all thinges therein bee ryghtely done, yet some littie quality of the nature of ꝑ beast will remayne, that a man may suspect often to vse the medicine. And where kinge Mithridates was expert in phisicall matters, it is not to be adiudged but that he did aswell know the nature of the flesh of vipers, as hee knewe the venime of the beast: so it is very likely that he purposing to compounde a medycine to be often taken for his safty against poison, did of purpose make it without the flesshe of vipers, knowing that if he shold haue added that, he myght not with like safty haue dayly vsed ꝑ same. And what learned men doe so often in these dayes counsell Theriacle, as do Mithridatium: and we doe in this our time with lesse danger and more security, for the measels, the smale pockes, the wormes, and for internal diseases in children, geue Mithridatium then Theriacle. We may therefore in mine opinion iustly conclude, that Mithridatium is a medicine more generally to be vsed, & may oftener and with more safty be geauen then Theriacle.

Of the age and keeping of Mithridatium.

Where

Where we haue sufficiently declared that compounde medicines must haue a time of fermentatiõ before they be brought to vse: this place requireth that we doe declare the tyme, when Mithridatium is sufficiently fermented and come to his perfection. Galen in his bookes *de Theriaca* doth write exactly of the time of fermentation of Theriacle, affirming that it is throughly concocted in xii yeares, not denying but ẏ it hath concoction in shorter time, as in 5. and in 7. yeares, so that we are to iudge that Theriacle is not sufficiently ripe to bee vsed before fiue yeares, and in 7 yeares is better digested, & in xij yeares hath his full fermentation, and perfect concoctiõ. Yet Ætius and Paulus Ægineta doe measure the concoction of Theriacle in shorter time. For Ætius sayth that Theriacle is fermented in xij monethes, and that it may be vsed after one moneth in some cases, and so affirmeth that it endureth to thirty yeares. Where Paulus appointeth ẏ age of Theriacle to be twenty yeares, therein he doth not greatlye differ from Ætius: for hee making the terme of Theriacle to be 30 yeares, doth also say that then it is good in light diseases. So that by Ætius, Theriacle may be vsed after xij

monethes,

monethes, and continueth in good perfection to 20. yeares, and after declineth, that at 30. yeares it is aged, yet may it be vsed in deseases which are not very great. Our later writers doe generally better allowe of Ætius & Paulus opinion for the age of Theriacle, then of Galens: and some suppose an errour or fault in ẏ place in Galen: and so they doe affirme ẏ Theriacle is fully concocted in the space of xij monethes, and then may bee sold of the Apothecary: and that the same being well kepte, will continue in good strength 20. yeares, and after doth decline and waxe weaker, and yet may be vsed when it is 30. yeares olde, but it is then as an old man decayed, and weake of strength.

Of Mithridatium the former writers haue set downe no time of concoction, leauing to a wyse man to determyne of ẏ, which is written accordingly of Theriacle. For bycause these two medicines are confected of many simples, not greatly differring, they haue many things cõmon: so as ẏ which is of ẏ one affirmed, may bee applied to the other. Notwithstanding as in the number & nature of ẏ simples, they doe not in all poynts agree: so no doubt in ẏ age of these medicines some difference is to be allotted: yet such, as a man exercised in these matters, may easely supplye. For in that Theria-

cle hath in it the flesh of vipers, and a greater portion of Opium, then is in Mithridatium, it is certaine that Theriacle requireth a longer time to his concoction: for the flesh of vipers must haue perfect fermentation with the simples for his correction. In like sorte Opium doth aske a long time of fermentation, & for ỳ cause Galen. *12. de Method. Medend.* sai.h, ỳ Philonium is not to bee vsed in a peare after it is compounded, and that the vse of it after ij. iij. or iiij. yeares, is more without daunger. Whereby hee geueth vs to vnderstande, that medicines which doe receaue Opium, require longe time of fermentation: so that Theriacle receauing a greater portion of Opium then Mithridatium, ought to haue a larger space to be concocted, then it. Now if Theriacle hath his perfection in one peare, surely Mithridatium is throughly fermented in sixe monethes, and may be kept in good strength, not only as some haue writen to three, or fours yeares, but to x or xij yeares: and except we shall to such time proroge his olde age, there will be no proportion in ỳ times. For if Theriacle being cocted in one peare, doth last to 20. yeares before it doth ware olde, suerly by the lyke proportion, Mithridatium not well fermented vnder sixe monethes, may iustly be saide

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to cõtinue in good efficacy to 10. or 12. yeares. And as Theriacle after 20. yeares waxeth old & feeble: so Mithridatium after 10. or 12. yeares doth decline, that being 20. yeares old, is then decayed and of litle force. As we may probably determine these times, so there can be no certainty set to leave vs to the time. For if the simples be not in good perfection, or the same orderly and well according to art compoũded, or otherwayes the medicine not well kept: then it will sooner wax old, & lose his strength. But as Galen writeth, to these great medicines, great care must be had of the choise of ỳ simples, that they may be had in ỳ readiest perfection. And like diligẽce must be gieuen, that the confectioner may in all pointes doe his duty, not in making only, but also in keeping ỳ medicine. And therefore princes are greatly to bee commended, which doe by their authority prouide, that these medicines myght be well ordered. And for that many doe in these dayes procure Mithridatium, to haue it in their houses ready to vse, it is good to know ỳ it is best kept in vessels of glasse, of siluer, and of gold, and that it is not so good to keepe ỳ same in Tinne vessels, for that they are often corrupted with leade, and gather a cerule matter, as Galen writeth in his first booke *de Antid.* It

wish therefore that the marchaunts may here of be admonished, which doe commonly bring Theriacle from Venice, in vessels of leade, wherby no small daũger may grow in so noble a medicine, & so greatly esteemed. So wee must not fill the vessell to the toppe, as we say byme full, but leaue some reasonable space, for the medicine to worke, to exhale, & breath: and for that cause, Galen counsayleth to open the vessell sometymes.

Howe to knowe good Mithridatium.

WE doe read in ỹ booke of Galen *de Theriaca ad Pisonem*, & in his bookes *de Antidot.* how diligently hee labored to gieue certen notes and rules, how a man might know the goodnes of Theriacle, and when the same was perfit: and so did in those his workes set downe both rules and proofes thereof. So carefull in old time writers were, that wee might be assured of the goodnes of these noble medicines, serving in so great affectes, and in such common vse. But such is ỹ malice of many which seeke gaine, that of the greater price a thinge is, the more sophistication they vse in it: ỹ if meanes were not declared, to discerne the good from

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the bad, the sophisticated from ꝑ true: no man might assure himself of the certaintie of any thing in estimation. It is therefore very necessary, to shew how men may know when Mithridatium is good and perfite, and when the same is naught & corrupted. And for ꝑ Galen in his forelaid bookes, hath labored to declare this in Theriacle, we will apply the same to ꝑ examination of Mithridatium. For in ꝑ these medicines haue a great affinitie, they doe in most thinges so concurre, that ꝑ same which is said of ꝑ one, may be applyed to ꝑ other. First therefore in consistence of substance, if Mithridatium be well and artificially compounded, it ought to haue an equality of substance, not drie nor ouer liquide, and moyste, not to arise in clots and lumpes, but it must be in substance coherent, equall, and smooth. In smell it must resẽble the simples whereof it is made, and yet not to offer to the nose, the smell of any one simple aboue the rest, but to yelde a common odoure arising by fermentation of all the simples, not peculier to any one, nor vngratefull, but answerable to the ingredience, resembling no rottennes, nor mustines.

In like sort, the taste must not expresse any one simple, but be as a common sapor, resulting of all the simples: so that if in tasting of Mithri-

datium, you may manifestly discerne or discry any one simple in it, surely that Mithridatium is not well confected. Therefore it may not haue in it any excesse of vngratefull bitternes, which doth sometimes happen, when the confectioner doth either take hony ouerold, or hoyle ꝑ same ouermuch. So it may not shew to the taste any sowrenes, which happeneth if the wyne vsed be not well chosen, or not well handled in the compounding.

It seemeth that Andromachus in his Theriacle had a great care of the coloure of it, and for that cause only (as some do write) did adde vitreoll prepared, to yelde to it an exact blacknesse. But Mithridates attending rather the goodnes, then by coloure to please ꝑ eye, had no such care of the coloure, and so is thought to put nothing into Mithridatium to giue it any fresher coloure then the simples would yeelde. Notwithstanding Mithridatium truly made, hath his coloure conuenient arising of the simples, which ought to be a little rednes declining to yealownesse, which coloure, after due fermentation, doth appeare with some freshenes, ꝑ by time in keeping, the same doth decline to an obscure darknes. Although at ꝑ first it may be thought hard to iudge of Mithridatium by these signes, yet after a man

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is exercised in often vewing, talking, and smelling of Mithridatium, his sauoure, coloure, & taste will be so familiar, that a man shall quickly discerne the true from the mingled, the sophisticated from the right compounded. A man therefore that wil iudge herein, must often see, taste, and smel to Mithridatium, vntil his senses bee throughly acquainted with the qualities of the medicine, and then hee shall not bee easely deceaued.

For better certainty of the perfection and goodnesse of Theriacle, Galen doth mention of certaine experiments to be made for triall thereof: as to giue the same to such as haue ben either hurt externally by some venimous beaste, or haue taken inwardly some poison. Whereof princes haue made trial in cõdemned persons, casting thẽ to vipers, or giuing vnto them some strong poyson, & after causing them to take of Theriacle the quantity of a nutte: and experience declared, that such as tooke Theriacle escaped the venime of the poyson, and they which tooke it not, dyed. Which proofe experienced in Theriacle, may also be applied to the triall of Mithridatium, and in that by all auncient writers Mithridatium is reputed of greater force then Theriacle, in curing all poysons inwardly ta-

ken: It followeth, that if it be good and truly made, it must remedy such as haue taken poison into the body. And because cõmon persons haue not like opportunity to make this experiment in men cõdemned, as princes haue: therefore we may in other beasts (as in dogs, in cokes and hennes, being domesticall creatures) experience the same, geuing to these beasts some poison, and after Mithridatium: and if the beast doe take no harme by the poison, we may be assured of the goodnesse of the medicine. And ỹ like is to be expected, if you gieue the remedy before the poyson be taken. For the medicine doth not onely defend the body from the venime of the poison, after it is taken: but also preserue, if it be first vsed: as we read of king Mithridates. In like maner Ætius biddeth vs to gieue to a douc, to a henne, or to a dogge, the quantity of two scruples of Opium, and straight after to minister to the same, Mithridatium, dissolued in some liquor, and if it be good and pure, the beaste shall sustaine no harme by the Opium.

Galen deliuereth as a certaine signe of the perfect goodnes of Theriacle, to gieue it to one that hath taken a purgatiue medicine. For (saith he) if it be perfect good, the medicine will not purge at all: if after the taking

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of Theriacle, ꝑ medicine doth his operation, & purge neuertheleſſe: ſurely then ꝑ Theriacle is vnperfect, & not good. We do not read this ſigne applied to Mithridatium: yet I ſee no cauſe but ꝑ we may proceede in like maner to try ꝑ goodnes of it. For it is certaine ꝑ no one ſimple is in ꝑ cõpoſition of Theriacle (which may be ſayd to ſtay ꝑ working of ꝑ purgatiue medicine) which is not in Mithridatiũ. For where Theriacle doth aboũd with ꝑ fleſh of vipers, put as the baſe of the medicine, no writer hath attributed to ꝑ parcell any ſuch property. The like may be ſayd, if you diſcourſe through all the ſimples added to this confection of Theriacle, and not in Mithridatium. Therefore it ſeemeth moſt agreeable to reaſon, that the property to ſtay the working of a purgation, doth proceede from the common forme of Theriacle: and ſo we may with like reaſon expect the ſame effect in Mithridatidatium, and rather in Mithridatium, becauſe all writers doe confeſſe that it is of greater force for inwarde poiſons, and inward affects, then Theriacle. Therefore I may cõclude, that Mithridatium gieuen after a purgatiue medicine, will better ſtay or diminiſh ꝑ working thereof, then Theriacle: and our experience in common practiſe, doth confirme the ſame.

For

For in this our age, who doth after purgatiue medicines (to bridle their ouerworking) so often giue Theriacle, as Mithridatium? Wherfore no doubt we may make triall of ỳ perfection and goodnes of Mithridatium, in like sorte as Galen writeth of Theriacle, that is to say, to minister to one a purgatiue medicine, and after to giue to the same man a reasonable quantity of Mithridatium: and if the medicine doth not worke according to his nature, or that his operation be lesse thẽ it ought to be, surely that Mithridatium is very perfect and good. Otherwyse, if ỳ medicine doth proceede in his action to purge, and the same appeareth not diminished by the taking of Mithridatium, then we may greatly doubt of the goodnes of the Mithridatium.

How we may make good Mithridatium. *in these dayes.*

I am not ignorant that diuers later writers do constantly affirme that in this our time we cannot make either good Theriacle or good Mithridatium, for that they say we do lacke many simples going into their compositions, and must vse others to supply, and so may iustly doubt whether ỳ supplies doe in all points

aunswere the true simples, and they which we haue are brought from farre cõtryes, long iournies, some by lãd, some by sea, especially to vs in England, whereby they may be thought greatly weakned, and to loose much of their strength and vertues, before we haue them. So they conclude, that we cannot by any diligent meanes, make these medicines in that perfection as the auncient writers did, and so we may not so exactly looke for the effects of these medicines promised by the olde writers. Whereto it may bee sayd, that in parte this allegation is true, and in deede a fewe yeares past, when this fault was found, it was more truer then now it is. For in truth when good learning began to spring after barbarisme, thē in deede great was þ wãt of true simples, not in these two medicines only, but in many other moe. But now in this our time all things are called to a better examination, and it is certain that few simples are now lacking, namely to þ making of Mithridatium: and it is also euident þ the care of phisitions and of þ Apothecaries (I meane of þ better sort) is so honest and so great, þ they doe not only diligently procure from þ places (where the simples which goe to the compositions of these medicines do grow) the very true: but also prouide

that

that the same may in those cõtries be gathered out of conuenient places, in due times and seasons. And ẏ help of so many and great nauigations into forrain dominions (more in these our dayes vsed, then of longe time before vs) doe gieue so good opportunity to haue true and good simples, ẏ to say truly what I do thinke of this our age, I doe verily belieue that we haue as true and as good simples, as Galen had in his time: especially such as are requisite to the making of Mithridatium. For we do reade what a dooe Galen made to haue pure and good Cinnamum, and made it an Emperoures worke to procure the same, and in lacke of Cinnamum did sometimes substitute double quãtitie of Casia. Whosoeuer wil with diligence examine the sackes of Canella, brought from the new found cõtries in great plenty in these dayes, may easely finde the perfect kindes of Cinnamum, agreable to the description of ẏ old writers: & also the true Casia. We may also vnderstãd, how in old time things were sophisticated by the monumẽts of old writers. And who doth not now perceaue and acknowledg many errors in Dioscorides bookes, in deliuering the descriptions of simples, not so well knowẽ in his time, as now by these nauigatiõs made manifest? Many things

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written by the auncient authors, by heare say, are now to the eye made euident and knowen. Wherefore it is true ỳ now in this age things are so exactly examined, & so diligently sought for, and so painfully cared for: that in truth I doe suppose we may make in this time Mithridatium, in very good perfection: and the simples wanting, are few in number: ỳ substitutes for the same, by learned men so well considered of, & so aptly appointed: that we neede not so greatly to doubt thereof, but may iustly expect th'effects attributed to the medicine, if not in so large manner as the auncient writers haue deliuered, yet in such reasonable sorte, ỳ we may esteeme of the medicine, as of a precious iewel, as of a thing good against some drie poisons, & diuers internall and pestilentiall diseases.

Mithridatium *made in* England *is rather to bee chosen, then that which is brought from* Venice *and other countryes beyond the Sea.*

SOme haue ben of opinion, that Theriacle & Mithridatium may better be made in other countryes, (as namely at Venice, and Constantinople) then in England: affirming that moe

moe and better simples are growing there, which wee doe lacke: and that such simples which are found neither in these countreys, nor in England, but are procured from ẏ east and west Indians, do sooner and in better perfection come to those places, then to vs. Surely if things be rightly weighed, this allegation is not true. For the partes of Italy, and the territories about Constantinople, haue very few or no simples growing in their soyles, which do not spring in England, required to the composition of Mithridatium, and many are founde in England in better perfection thē there. As namely, who doth not graunt the best saffron to be in England, & all trauelers which come into England, do confesse that our soyle doth produce very good plantes (as namely Scordium) in better kinde than other countreys: and some strangers do send into England often for some of our simples, which do go into the composition of Mithridatium. It is also well knowen, that straunge herbes transplanted hither, and some of seedes sowen, doe very kindely spring in England, which is also confessed of some later writers in their Herballes. And where few simples requisite to make Mithridatium are wanting (as not growing in England) it seemeth most true,

that

that they which doe growe here, are moſt kindly for vs (for natiue things are beſt aggreable to our conſtitutions.) So þ whereas the moſt ſimples in number required to the compoſition of Mithridatium, are found naturally to ſpring in England: I ſee no cauſe why we ſhould not beſt allow of it made heere: neither ought þ paucitie which we do lacke, to draw vs better to eſteeme of a forrayne medicine made of all forrain things. And as I dare affirme that in this countrey we do lacke as few ſimples which go to the making of Mithridatium, as any of the forenamed places: ſo I may iuſtly pronounce, that ſuch which are wanting to them, and to vs alſo, may and are as eaſily, and in as ſhort time tranſported to vs, as to them. For in theſe dayes, the ſpices and other thinges brought from þ Indians by nauigation to Liſhburn, and thence to other countreys of Europe, may as ſoone be tranſported to vs as to Venice. Where in times paſt ſuch marchandiſe were caried from the eaſt Indians to Alexandria by land vpon Camels, that trade is now decayed, and for þ moſt part ſuch druggs are imported by ſea, and þ ſhips doe commonly light in ſome part of Portingal: ſo that it is eaſie to ſee that our Apothecaries in England, may with as good conue-

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mency procure thē from those places, and in as good perfection, as the marchaūts of Venice or of Constantinople. Neuertheleſſe if any thing lacking with vs, doe come to Venice: it is ſoone tranſported thence to Antuerp (as in the ſpace of 24. dayes) & ſo to vs. Wherefore I doe not cōceaue, why any man ſhould thinke ẏ our Apothecaries in England, cānot make Mithridatiū in as good perfection as other coūtries doe: but rather we ought to adiudge ẏ contrary, that it made here, is in as good perfection, and more agreable to our natures & conſtitutions, then ẏ which is cōpounded in other countreys, as altogether made of ſtraūge ſimples, which haue no affinity with our bodies. And if we do with iudgement cōſider how vncertaine wee are of the true confection, when it is done in places ſo farre from vs: it may make vs greatly to feare, leaſt they which do cōpound ẏ medicine, hauing more care to gaine, then truly to diſpence ẏ ſame, will neither make choiſe of the beſt ſimples, neither vſe diligence in the mixture. And if the princes of the countryes with carefull lawes prouide, that the confectioners ſhall doe their duties truely, in compoūding and obſeruing the things needeful to the well handling of ſo noble a medicine: who can aſſure himſelfe of the truth of the marchaunt-

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in transporting ꝑ same: whose profession is by his marchaundize to gaine, & so no doubt will vse meanes euery way to increase his profite, that we may iustly suspect, that they doe very seldome bring into England from Venice or Constantinople, any Theriacle or Mithridatium vnmingled: & the better skill they haue in their trade, with more arte they can sophisticate their wares, to deceaue the iudgement of the buyer, that I greatly doe doubt ꝑ litle or none at all of these medicines are brought true and sincere vnmixed: as hath bene tryed when straungers in England haue purposly examined both Theriacle and Mithridatium compounded in London, with other brought from the sayd countryes, & haue gieuen praise to that made in London: as maister Hughe Morgane her Maiesties Apothecary can witnes, whose confections haue bene better commended by strangers, then any of other places. Farther whereas of Mithridatium there are diuers descriptiõs, not all of like goodnes (as I haue before declared) how can we tell what compositions the confectioner followed: hereof ꝑ marchaũt not hauing care, can not informe vs: so we remaine vncertaine of the true knowledge of the medicine, not hauing knowledg of the simples vsed in that wee buy: and as wee know not assuredly what kinde of Mithridati-

um we doe buy: so we remaine vncertaine of the medicine. And where wee haue declared ỳ Theriacle & Mithridatium haue their times of fermentation, of their duraunce, and that after a certaine age they decline, waxe old, & feeble: we cannot know the time of that which is forraine made: so we haue vncertaine medicine, and shall be vncertaine how long we may keepe the same. All which circumstances may be easly knowne, in that which is made in England. Galen in his bookes doth not allowe of Theriacle kept in Tinne vessels, affirming that they are corrupted with leade, the ceruse whereof doth corrupt ỳ medicine. What shall we then say to our marchauntes, which doe bring Mithridatium & Theriacle from other countryes in vessels of leade? doe not these medicines take of ỳ vessels great corruption, and notwithstanding are solde to the great annoyance of the Queenes subiects? Wherefore if we doe truely weigh in the ballance of reason, that which I haue here written) and yet much more may in this matter be sayd) surely we shall not onely confesse that none of these medicines, specially Mithridatium, made in forraine places, are, or ought to be so greatly esteemed, as those which are made at home in England. And we may truely confesse that we

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are iuſtly puniſhed in expending our money vpon forraine things, when we haue & may haue better at home. And it is very lamentable to conſider, ỳ ſtraungers doe dayly ſend into England a falſe & naughty kinde of Mithridatium, & Threacle, in great barrelles, more then a thouſand weight in a yeare, and vtter ỳ ſame at a lowe price, for iij.d. or iiij.d. a pound, to ỳ great hurt of Her Maieſties ſubiects, and no ſmale gaine to ſtraungers purſes. Wherefore to conclude, I doe counſell all Engliſh men rather to buy Mithridatium truly made in England, then that which is brought from other coũtryes. And here it is to be wiſhed, that our moſt gratious Souereigne thereof informed, may by Her magiſtrates doe, as in olde time Emperoures of Rome did, that is, by her edict take order, that our Apothecaries may with care and diligence ſelect the ſimples which doe go to the making of this medicine, that the true may bee gotten in their beſt perfections, and the ſame truely choſen may bee rightly diſpenſed, and in all pointes according to arte well ordered, the time of fermentation duely obſerued, the maner of keeping, in good ſorte performed: and ſo all things rightly adminiſtred by her Maieſties carefull ordinances, I doe not doubt, but ỳ wee ſhall in this

our countrie haue both Mithridatium & Theriacle in good perfection, that we may finde the great effects and noble vertues of both, so largely delinered by the auncient writers in their monuments.

Of the vertues and properteyes of Mithridatium.

GALEN in his bookes *de Antidot.* doth not particulerly expresse the properties of this medicine: but generally enunceth, that it doth good against all poisons, and is stronge to remedy many inwarde diseases. It doth appeare by sondry places in Galen, that Mithridatium hath all the vertues which Theriacle hath, and is inferior to it only in the curing of the byting of vipers, and such other venemous beastes: in other things it doth excell Theriacle. Then where Galen at large displayeth ỳ faculties & vertues of Theriacle in his bookes *De Theriaca ad Pisonem*, & *ad Pamphilianũ*, he needed not particularly to set downe ỳ properties of Mithridatium. For it doth suffice for vs to looke into ỳ qualities & powers of Theriacle to learne the facu'ties of Mithridatiũ. But ỳ latter writers in all their antidotaries doe

doe expresse ꝑ same at large. In which bookes we do reade thus.

Mithridatium is next in qualitye and vertue to Theriacle, and doth little differ from it, saue that Theriacle is in temperament hoatter, and stronger against ꝑ biting of serpents. Concerning other properties of Mithridatium confuesly numbred in these bookes, it will not be amysse to reduce them to a methode and order: So we may affirme that the effects and vertues of Mithridatium doe consist in two speciall points. First to preserue from infirmities, then to cure diseases. For as Galen writeth, this medicine doth not onely cure affects which are ingendred, and helpe to remedy poison taken: but vsed before, doth so defend, ꝑ poison grieuen after shall doe no harme, as happened to king Mithridates, when he would haue poisoned himselfe. Who so vseth Mithridatium in health, shall in such sorte make his body strong, ꝑ neither poiso, nor other disease shall easely harme him. And as man consisteth of body and soule, so Mithridatū doth in both exercise his vertues. His properties are such, that it quickeneth the senses, cleareth the minde, and sharpeneth the witte. Which actiones it perfourmeth by clensing the instrumentes which doe

serue to these fuctions, from grosse and thick vapours. And where oftentimes many fumes doe ascend, by the which the animal spirits are obscured, the vse of Mithridatium doth dissipate, extenuate, & consume the same: wherby these animal facultyes & powers are cleared, and so a perfite minde is preserued in a whole body. For Mithridatium maketh strong all parts which doe serue for nutrition, increaseth naturall heate, openeth obstructions, expelleth superfluity, wherby the naturall faculties of the body doe perfectly performe their functions, the stomacke in good order desireth and digesteth alimentes, the liuer maketh good and perfit bloud, and eth parte puteth from him his excrementes in conuenient order and time. So the hart receiuing pure bloud, maketh good spirits fit for his actions, which he orderly sendeth to the animal partes, & to other members of ỹ body. Wherby all the principall partes being in their perfections, doe euery way well dispente through the body, that it remayneth in good order to performe all actions. And whereas mã is subiect to many casualties, Mithridatium vsed as is sayd, so defendeth the body, that no poison shall easely harme it. Wherof Mithridates gaue proofe, who by longe vse of this medicine,

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so altered the constitution of his body, that no poison could annoye it.

In pestilentiall seasons, it preserueth such as do vse it: where of we haue examples, not only in auncient writers, but also in our daily experience.

Now concerning ỹ parte curatiue, though the same may be gathered by that which is already written in preseruatiō: yet it is better for order sake to repeate one thing often, then to be thought insufficient by omitting any thing. Wherfore we may say with the olde authors (which proofe also confirmeth) that Mithridatium remedyeth diseases of the minde, taketh away straunge imaginations, helpeth melancholy phantasies & passions, which drawe men often to desperation. This it performeth by alcering the bloud, opening the splene, by chaunging and dissipating the vapores arrising of the melancholy humore, and yeelding to the animall spirits pure and good exhalations, and by comforting the hart. And where oftentimes colde and grosse fumes do ascend so plentifully, that the wittes are dulled, the senses and discourse of reason either greatly impaired or cleane taken away, the iudgment and memory hurt or abolished: Mithridatium by his sweete wythings quic-

keneth the same, reduceth the braine to his temperament, altereth, consumeth, & spendeth those vapoures, and bringeth man to his naturall state, and when it is newe, it inducth sleepe, and remedieth the furyousnes of many madmen.

No man needeth to doubt of the mighty power of Mithridatium, in curing all kind of poisons either outwardly receaued or inwardly taken, being to that purpose chefly devised, and of long time experienced to be therin of great force. Although for the biting and stinging of venemous beastes, it is supposed of lesse might then Theriacle: yet it is of all men confessed much stronger to cure poisons, taken into the body by potion, or other wayse. So his might is great to heale all pestilent all and malignante diseases, cureth the plage, feauers which depend of naughty and malignant causes, helpeth the french pocks, the small pocks, the measels: and in all other inward diseases which are great, and such as other medicines can not remedy, Mithridatium is found to haue a speciall grace to cure them. And in such desperate diseases & cases, when other remedies will not serue, then we ought to flye to Mithridatium, as Galen writeth of Theriacle.) For being a noble medicine of great

great powre, it is not to be vsed in euery affect of little moment.

Wherefore it is written that Mithridatium cureth all infermities of the head in men, and women, if the same doe come of a cold cause: namely it helpeth the melancholy madnes, the Falling sickness, ꝑ Demicrane or meagrame, ꝑ paines in the eyelids and browes, the watring of the eyes, the paines of the eares, of the teeth, of the mouth, of the iawes, the squinancy, the appoplexy, the litargie, and such other cold diseases of ꝑ head: in which cases it is inwardly dronken, & also outwardly applyed, spread in the forme of an emplastre: it comforteth ꝑ hart, & doth good in the passions of the same.

It helpeth the diseased of the breast, cureth the cough, shortnes of breath, spitting of bloud, the pleurisy and stiches of the side, the phthisike & other inward diseases of the breast and lungs. In these later causes, especially for stiches, it is applyed outwardly, spred emplastre wise, and in the chough and such other diseases, it is inwardly ministred with some conuenient liquor: for so it cutteth the grosnes of the phlegme, and maketh it easy to be auoyded, openeth the pipes, and enlargeth all those parts which doe serue for breathing.

To proceede to the affects of the stomake, it

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prouoketh appetite, remedieth ouer much desire to eat, termed *Canina appetentia*: for it dryeth superfluous, & resolueth & correcteth corrupte humores: it helpeth concoctiõ, by increasing of naturall heate, cureth euill belks, & inflation of the stomacke: for it breaketh winde, and will not suffer any thing to corrupt in ꝑ stomacke: it stayeth vomiting by strengthening the stomacke: by keeping the stomacke cleane from winde, superfluous, and euill humores, it taketh away the abhorring of meate.

It doth great good in all diseases of the belly, paynes in ꝑ guts, called the Iliaca passio, the bluddy flix, and all other fluxes gieuen with the decoction of the flowers of the pomegranate called Balaustia. In the colike of the belly it is very good, and to ease the paynes of the belly after a purgatiue medicine, it hath a speciall vertue. For it taketh away the malignitie of the medicine, breaketh winde, and doth strengthen parts wekened by the purgatiue medicine. It nourisheth diseases & paynes in the sydes and about the mydriffe, it helpeth the infirmities of ꝑ kidnes, and of the bladder, breaketh the stone, remedieth the passions of the matrix, prouoketh the naturall courses in women, and stoppeth the same if they doe a-

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bound. For it openeth the passages by extenuating that which by grosnes doth stoppe the wayes: and by making nature stronge, staieth fluxes, which commonly do grow immoderate by weaknes. It diminisheth ꝑ swellings & hardnes of ꝑ matrix, & of other parts, it doth remedy ꝑ barrennes in women, & maketh them fertill. Mithridatiū is accounted a speciall good remedy against the payne of the ioynts, to cure the goute and the Sciatica, for that it drieth superfluous humores, stayeth the reume, & maketh all parts stronge. But it must be gieuen, not at the first, when the payn beginneth, but after: when the rage of the paine is past, and the body ought first to be purged before you gieue Mithridatium. And it bled before the fits of the goutes, maketh greatly for preseruation, to keepe one from often accessiōs of ꝑ goute. It helpeth ꝑ diseases of the lineues, ꝑ resolution, ꝑ paulsye, the crampe, ꝑ diseases called Tetanos Ambrostotonos, and Opistetanos: for it augmenteth naturall heate, dissolueth, by euaporatiō, humores soken into ꝑ synewes, & restoreth the spirits and strength. It helpeth the shaking fits of feauers, & geauen twyse or thrise halfe an houre before the fitte, oftentimes it doth cure the feauer quartan and the quotidian.

Of

Of the vse of Mithridatium.

THe better to know the vse of Mithridatium, we are to consider the time most conuenient to giue it, the quantity, & the maner of giuing. For the time, we may with Galen counsaile to minister the same in no wyse vpon a full stomacke, but after concoction is perfit. The vsuall time and best to take it, is in the morning fasting, it is not so good to giue it when the stomacke and first veines are full of crude and rawe humoures. And before it be giuen, itis good to procure the belly to be loose, according to Galens counsell in ministring of Theriacle, in his booke *ad Pamphilianum*.

Of the quantity.

AS Galen writeth in his booke *de Theriaca ad Pisonem*, so we may affirme that one quantity of Mithridatium is not to bee giuen to all men, in all times and in all diseases. And the better to finde out the iust quantity, wee are to remember, that Galen in the sayd booke mentioneth of two quantityes giuen of Theriacle, the one referred to a hasell nut, the other to a beane of Ægypt. And for that he also affirmeth, þ in strong diseases the greater quantity is to be giuen, and the lesser in light diseases, and so in great infirmities hee mi-

miniſtreth the quantity of an haſell nut, and in diſeaſes of leſſe force, vſeth the portion of the beane of Ægypt: it is euident that the haſell nut importeth the greater quantity, and the beane the leſſer. So that by Galen the greateſt quãtity to be gieuen of Theriacle, is meaſured by an haſell nut, and the leaſt by a beane of Ægypt. And the forme of ſpeach which Galen vſeth to expreſſe theſe quantities, in my iudgement doth importe the bigneſſe, and not the weight of the things. For Galen in euery place writeth *ad magnitudinem fabæ ægyptiæ*, & ſo *ad magnitudinem nucis auellanæ*, to the michelty or bignes of a beane of Ægypt, the bignes of an haſel nut. Which maner of ſpech hath relation to the bignes & not þ weight. We are therefore to conſtrue Galen, that in great diſeaſes Theriacle is to be miniſtred, that his bulke may bee equall with the bignes of an haſell nut, and in other diſeaſes, of a beane of Ægypt. Maſſarius in his booke *de ponderibus* reducing theſe things to weight, ſaith that *Faba Ægyptia* importeth a *ſcruple* and a halfe, that is, halfe a *drachine*: and that *nux auellana* ſignifieth a *drachine*. So if we will by weight meaſure the quantities, the greateſt which is to be gieuen of Theriacle is a *drachine*, and the leaſte is halfe a *drachine*.

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In that Mithridatium is like to Theriacle, it may be gieuen in like quantity. And because it is more gentle, and not in quality so whot as Theriacle, and not receiuing the flesh of vipers, nor so great quantity of Opium, it is a more safe medicine, & so may be gieuē in greater quantity, that wee neede not be bounde to an hasell nut, nor to a beane of Ægypt, but may as cause shall require exceede both. For which cause the writers of our antidotary bookes, not without reason doe affirme, that Mithridatium may bee ministred to foure *Drachines*, that is halfe an ownce. And Durastantes in his cōmentary vpon Luminare Maius bringing the quantity of a nut, and of a beane to ꝑ weight, saith that an hasell nut signifieth an ounce, and ꝑ beane of Ægypt halfe a scruple, and because the one proportion is very great, the other ouer litle: therefore he putteth his sensure, that an hasell nut containeth *ij. Drachines*, or iiij. *Drachines* at ꝑ most. And the beane of Ægypt one *Drachine*, or ij. *Drachines* at the most. So that by his opinion we may minister Theriacle to ij. or iij. *Drachines*, when the disease and the case so requireth. Wherefore wee neede not greatly to feare to gieue Mithridatium in so large a quantity as is prescribed in our antidotaryes, that is, to

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minister it to halfe an ounce. Neuertheleſſe in theſe dayes wee doe very ſeldome miniſter Mithridatium ſo largely: for moſt cõmonly we follow the preſcript of Galen, and giue of it the quantity of a beane, or of an hazell nut. In meaſure wee preſcribe halfe a *drachme* and two *ſcruples*, and in mighty diſeaſes, and vrgent cauſes we offerre one *drachme*, and very ſeldome doe proceede to a greater quantity: which proportions in my iudgement are moſt vſually to be kept. Yet by this diſcourſe it appeareth, that we are not ſo to be reſtrained to theſe quantities, but that we may vpon occaſions giue a greater quantity, if the patient, the diſeaſe, & other circumſtances doe ſo require. And hereby alſo it appeareth, that we cannot ſo determine the quantity of this medicine, nor of any other, that the ſame may alway be obſerued: but the certaine appointment of the ſame muſt bee left to the diſcretion of him which doth miniſter the medicine, to preſcribe the quantity according to the circumſtances of the preſent caſe. And therefore it ſhall not be amiſſe here to conſider more particularly of the circumſtãces, whereby we may the better attaine to coniecture the iuſt quantity to bee giuen in the preſent caſe. Firſt therefore wee are to conſider the countrey where the party

which

which is to take the medicine, doth inhabite, & here also the time of yeare. And as Galen writeth of Theriacle, that in the East partes & in hoate countryes, in sommer and hoate seasons it is not to be ministred: so we may affirme of Mithridatiū, þ in hoate countryes & seasons we ought to refraine frō much geiuing of it. Wherefore when occasion is to gieue in sommer, we must prescribe a lesser quantity then in winter, and in the spring time. So we may gieue a bigger quantity in these north parts, then in hoater countreyes. The like respect is to be had of the liquore in which wee gieue it, that in hoate places & seasons it be mingled with a cold liquor, as with water: and in cold countries and times with a whot liquore, as with wyne.

The like consideration is to bee had of the temperament of the body, and of the age. In which respect Galen doth forbid cholerike & hoate constitutions to take Theriacle. And such must with more warinesse vse Mithridatium, and in lesser quantity and mingled with some conuenient liquore, moderate the heate of the medicine.

Concerning age, Galen doth forbid the gieuing of Theriacle to children, for (saith he) the mightines of the medicine doth exceede the

strength

strength of children, and dissolueth their bodies: and telleth an history of a childe destroide by taking of Theriacle. We may therefore admonishe phisitions of these dayes, which doe often & boldly giue Theriacle to ponge children for the wormes: let them consider what warrant they haue so to doe: it is to be feared lest they endaunger thereby so tender bodyes. And we are to be circumspect in giuing Mithridatium to children, and to be very wary in ꝑ ministring of it, lest we do harme therin. And yet I do thinke we may with more safety minister Mithridatium then Theriacle. To yong men & such as haue much natural heate, we may giue this medicine: but neither oftē, nor in great quantity, & in water rather then wine. To mē of yeres which are in ꝑ declining age, in greater quantity, and in wyne. In respect of the disease we are so to measure the quantity of the medicine, that in a mighty and a strong disease, we giue a greater quantity. Therefore as Galen wryteth of Theriacle, so we may determine of Mithridatium. In strōg poyson, and to such as are bitten and stinged with virulent beasles or mad dogs, we giue a greater quantity: in other diseases the quantity of the medicine ought to be according to the greatnes of the sickenes. So when there is

time to digest the medicine, we may appoynt a greater quantity: when little time is for concoction, then lesser quãtity serueth. The like consideration is to be made in all these circũstances of ꝑ liquore, in which the medicine is to be dissolued, the same to be of a greater or lesser measure, according to ꝑ circumstances: whereof we are to speake more particularly in the maner of gieuing.

Of the manner of gieuing of Mithridatium.

By that we doe reade in Galen in his bookes *de Theriaca* and *de Antidot*, yt appeareth that thauncient phisition did seldom or not at all gieue either Theriacle or Mithridatium dry, and not dissolued in some liquor. and the reason may be, for that they gaue it most commonly before or after poison, or to preserue or cure some pestilentall sicknes, which depended of a malignant cause. In which respect, it seemeth requisite to minister the medicine in lyquid forme, that it might haue the speedy passage through the body, and come to the heart, that the spirites comforted, might the better resist and the sooner expell the venyme, and the malignity of the affect. For not only Mithri-

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dacū and Theriacle, but all other medicines taken in a solide and dry consistence, doe stay in the stomacke longe, and sustaine greater alteration, than when the same is gieuen in a liquid forme. For which cause when we haue intent to comfort the stomacke, to help digestiō, to breake wynde in the stomacke and belly, then it is conuenient to gieue Mithridatium in drie substāce. When intention is to remedy diseases in more inward parts of the body, in all venimous, pestilential and malignant causes, we gieue the medicine dissolued with some liquore. And as we reade in Galen, that hee vsed not alway one liquore, so he maketh mention of these, of water of Mulsa, that is water & hony, which we do cal meade or meath, of *mulsum*, that is wyne and hony mingled, of *acetum mulsum*, that is wine, hony and vineger, of *posca*, that is water & vineger, of certaine decoctions made of hearbs, rootes, and seedes. And it is to bee seene by Galens discourse, that hee made choise of the liquores by indication taken of the countrey, of the time of the yeare, of the age and complexion of the patient, and of the nature and disposition of the disease. So that he gaue a hoat liquore, as wine or wine & hony in cold countryes and times, in aged men, & such as were not of hoate complexions, and

had not much naturall heate, & in diseases not ouerhoate, & in strong poysons. Cõtrariwise in hoate regions, in sommer time, in such as were in the flower of their age, and had cholerike and hoat constitutions, dry bodies, and did abound with naturall heate, in hoate cholerike sicknesses, in great feauers, he made choise of a colde liquore hauinge regarde that the liquore might contemper and mitigate in some part the quality of the medicine. Which intẽtions applied to ỹ gieuing of Mithridatium, it will be easy to choose a fit liquore, when we are to minister the same in it. For the same circumstances will soone induce vs to make choise of a conuenient liquore. wee may also learne by Galen, that as the circumstances are to leade vs to appoynete the quality of the liquore, as is afore sayde: So the disposition of the disease will teach vs to apt a conuenient liquore in substaunce: for it is agreable to reason, that such a liquore bee gieuen, which may not only mitigate the quality of the medicine, but with hauing also property to doe good in that disease, may further the action of the medicine. So by good reason in pestilentiall agues, in malignant diseases, the pockes, ỹ measels, we doe gieue Mithridatium with the dissolued water

of

of Dragon, or of Carduus benedictus, or in some like decoction, and we doe in such cases manytimes mingle with ẏ syrupe *de acetositate citri* syrupe *acetosus*, which things doe not only mitigate the heate of the medicine, but also help and further his action. In ẏ cough, and diseases of the breaste and syde, wee may with Galen choose wine and water called *mulsum* when ẏ patient is without a feauer: in a feauer with water and hony called *mulsa*. In such as are shorte breathed, it is best gieuen with vineger composided with *scilla*, to them which spit bloude, at the beginning, with water and hony, which we call meade, after, with water only, but the medicine wil be more effectuall, if you doe boyle the rootes of Comfry in it. In diseases and paine of the belly, with water. In stoppages of the lyuer, the yealew Ieaundes, the Dropsie, with an opening decoctiō, as the decoction of the rootes of *Asara bacca*. And in respect of the drouth in the Dropsie, it may be gieuen in meade. In diseases of the kidnes and bladder, with the decoction of persley, and in vlcers of the kidnes, with wine and water, in excoriation of the guttes, with a decoction of Sumach: to those which haue the falling sicknes, if they be leane, with meade, & it were two lōge, and to litle purpose thus perticular-

ly to runne thorough all diseases. we may easely appoint a cõuenient liquore, and prescribe ꝑ quantity of ꝑ medicine, & of the liquore, by ꝑ which is written, and thought I haue for example sake (for examples doe best teach) discoursed in many diseases, appointing such liquores which Galen doth vse and best allowe of, yet I doubt not but an expert man will for the present case, diuise much better, by indication taken of the circumstaunces before mentioned, That a man weil weighing these thinges, may quickely knowe the true vse of Mithridatium, and so not erre in the ministration thereof, but gieue the same to the greats good of those, which shall take it, and to the honour of God, whose goodnesse gieueth successe to al medicines, to worke health where and when it pleaseth his holy wisdome.

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